THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir, From May, 1991 to February, 1992, three Letters of Understanding (L.O.U.) have been signed by Government of India and World Food programme (WFP) for exchange of vegetable oil / butter oil with local wheat in WFP assisted on-going projects in the country. The details are as follows :—

| Date of Signing the LOU | Commodity and Quantity | Rate of exchange ratio with wheat |
|---|---|---|
| 17-5-91 . . . | 2,000 MT of refined rapeseed oil | 1:6 |
| 26-12-91 . . . | 3,000 MT of butter oil | 1 : 14.9 |
| 15-2-92 . . . . | 2,000 MT of refined rapeseed oil | 1 : 5.5 |

(b) Under these Letters of Understanding, Government have so far received 2080. 352 MT of vegetable oil and 991. 937 MT of butter oil. About 2,000 MT of butter oil is being cleared at Bombay Port. Besides a vessel containing 2,000 MT of refined rapeseed oil has also reached Bombay Fort.

(c) WFP has committed food aid valued at 311.6 million US dolars for 13 WFP assisted on-going projects in the country.

(d) During January—February, 1992 WFP has provided 351 MT of vegetable oil for direct distribution under WFP assisted on-going projects.

**Gold deposits in the Country**

*156. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new gold ore deposits discovered in the country during the last one year till date;

(b) whether Government propose to intensify the exploration of fresh gold ore deposits in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No new gold ore deposits have been discovered in the country during the last one year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Geological survey of India (GSI) have drawn up a prioritised plan of action for accelerated exploration of gold in different parts of the country during the 8th Plan period. About 40 gold investigations in Andhra Pradesh, Karanataka Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Orissa, M.P., Maharashtra, U.P., Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh are planned to be taken up during this period. Important blocks/ areas among them are : Kotapalli, Ponakchorla-Kuderublock, Ramapuram-Bhadrampalli area, Chennabhavi bolck, Ramagiri Schist Belt, Bisanatham area, Kolar Schist belt, Andhra Pradesh; Hutti Maski Schist belt, G.R. Halli and C.K. Halli, Ajjanhalli, Chitradurga district, Chinmulgund, Dharwar district and Ettinahalli in Sandur schist belt Karnataka; Mallapuram, Kappil-Mankada area, Attappadi area, Kerala; Kansabel, Pandripani and Tapakara area Raigarh district, Kotui area, Bastar district, M.P.; Pullarparsori area, Nagpur district, Maharashtra; Badampahar-Gurumahisani-Kunder Kocha Schist belt, Bihar, Dalma Volcanics in West Bengal and Bihar, Mayurbhanj district,Orissa, Harrahawa-Kohkhwa Matshani block, Sonebhadra area, Siwa-lik belt, near Sarda river, Nainital district, U.P.; Beas valley, H.P.; Budki nadi Siswan Nadi, etc. Punjab; Vijay Nagar area, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh etc.

**Prices of Iron Scrap**

*157. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that steel mills are suffering due to spurt in the prices of iron scrap;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter ?